

History Highlights

Located on more than 14,100 acres in Wilkes and Alleghany counties, Stone Mountain State Park offers cascading waterfalls and cool mountain streams, quiet forests abundant with wildlife, scenic hiking trails and a historic mountain homestead.

One of the park's most spectacular features is Stone Mountain, a 600-foot granite dome. This magnificent feature is part of a 25-square-mile pluton, an igneous rock formed beneath the earth's surface by molten lava. Over time, wind, water and other forces gradually eroded the softer layers of rock atop the granite block and exposed the outcrop we see today. Wet weather springs continually carve troughs in the granite as water runs down the mountain's sloping face.



Established in 1969 and designated a National Natural Landmark in 1975, Stone Mountain is bounded by the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Thurmond Chatham Game Lands.

Long before becoming a state park, Stone Mountain was settled by families of English, German, Irish, French and Scotch-Irish descent who built the log homes, farms, mills, churches and schools needed for self-sufficient communities.

Mountain Culture Exhibit: Located at the park office, this exhibit tells the story of how the independent mountain settlers provided shelter, food and clothing for their families. Check out the park's old-time still, loom and other historical artifacts. Other exhibits include animal pelts and a full-body black bear mount. Displays offer visitors the chance to learn about trout, butterflies, moths and much more. The exhibits are open 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., during office hours.

Hutchinson Homestead: Walk through one of the park's historic sites, the Hutchinson Homestead. The homestead is complete with a log cabin, barn, blacksmith shop, corncrib, meathouse and original furnishings. Visitors can play recordings that explain how different aspects of the farm were run. The farm was built in the mid-19th century. Restored in 1998, the homestead is representative of the lives of early settlers in the area. The homestead is open to visitors weekends during peak season. When the homestead is closed during the week and during winter, visitors can walk the homestead grounds.

Picnicking

The picnic area is located near the visitor center and offers a peaceful woodland experience. Included in this area are 75 individual picnic sites and three large picnic shelters. The picnic area offers tables, grills, a water fountain and restrooms. The shelters may be reserved for a fee. A short trail connects to the main loop trail to provide access to a waterfall and Stone Mountain's summit.

Trails

Stone Mountain Loop Trail: Start at the Upper Trailhead parking lot (#12 on map), directly across from the campground road. This 4.5-mile strenuous trail takes you across the summit of Stone Mountain then by the Hutchinson Homestead and a 200-foot waterfall. Hikers can choose to go out to the waterfall or the summit and back without having to do the entire loop. This trail can also be accessed from the Lower Trailhead parking lot (#10) but remember which parking lot you started from.

Stone Mountain Connector Trail: This ½ mile trail connects the picnic area to the Stone Mountain Loop Trail.

Cedar Rock Trail: Available from both Stone Mountain Loop and Wolf Rock trails, this one-mile trail leads to Cedar Rock, a large granite outcrop allowing views to the south/southeast and an excellent view of Stone Mountain.

Wolf Rock Trail: This 1.5-mile trail is entered from Stone Mountain Loop Trail or the Cedar Rock Trail and provides views of the Blue Ridge Mountain escarpment. The ridges dividing three watersheds — Garden Creek, Widow's Creek and Bullhead Creek — can also be seen from atop Wolf Rock. Signs of old field succession are evident along the trail as it leads through areas which are predominantly pine, then mixed pine-hardwood and finally mature hardwood.

Black Jack Ridge Trail: Available from Cedar Rock and Wolf Rock trails, this 1.5-mile trail follows an old road through heavily wooded areas. In the winter, this hike offers wonderful views of Stone Mountain.

Middle Falls/Lower Falls Trail: Available from Stone Mountain Loop Trail, this trail leads hikers a half mile along Big Sandy Creek to Middle Falls and then extends to Lower Falls. The trail dead-ends at Lower Falls.

Widow's Creek Trail: This trail is entered from the backpack parking area. The trail follows Widow's Creek for 2.5 miles to the different backcountry sites and stops. All backpackers must register and pay at the backpack parking area before camping overnight.

Mountains-to-Sea Trail: A section of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail is located within the park. The trail begins at the backpack parking area for the Widow's Creek Trail and continues six miles to the Devil's Garden Overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway. All backpackers must register and pay at the backpack parking area before camping overnight.

Bridle Trail: The five-mile horseback riding trail begins at the horse trailer parking lot and ends at John P. Frank Parkway.

The terrain on the top of Stone Mountain may appear level, but it becomes gradually steeper down slope. Those who wander off the trail risk becoming stranded as the lower sections of the rock are almost vertical. Stay on designated trails and exercise caution as waterfalls and steep, rocky terrain may create hazardous and slippery conditions. Avoid steep, rocky ledges at all times and exercise extreme caution when rocks are wet or icy.

Nature's Classroom

Rangers hold regularly scheduled educational and interpretive programs about Stone Mountain State Park. Contact the park office to arrange a special exploration of Stone Mountain State Park for your group or class.

Educational materials about Stone Mountain State Park have been developed for grades 5-8 and are correlated with North Carolina's competency-based curriculum in science, social studies, mathematics and English/language arts.

The Stone Mountain State Park program introduces students to basic geologic concepts, focusing on Stone Mountain. Major concepts covered include the rock cycle, geologic time, weathering and erosion, igneous rocks, geologic processes, resource use and stewardship. Accompanying the program is a teacher's booklet and workshop, free of charge to educators.

Camping

Family camping: Just ½ mile past the visitor center, a turnoff leads to the family campground where 90 campsites for tents and recreational vehicles are located in three loops. Each site has a tent pad, table and firering/grill. Drinking water and two washhouses with hot showers are located nearby. Some sites have water/electric hookups. A dump station is located near the contact station for use by registered campers only. The campground and washhouses are open year-round.

Select any unoccupied site and register at the contact station, located as you enter the campground. There is a fee for camping and a limit of six persons per site. All sites are available on a first-come basis. Sites must be occupied overnight and cannot be reserved. Park gates are locked daily at posted closing hours. Campers are not permitted to leave the park after closing hours or before 8 a.m., except in an emergency. In an emergency situation, go to the pay phone at the contact station or visitor center and dial 911.

Group camping: Four group sites are available for a fee by reservation only. Each site will accommodate 25 people. Each site has a firering, grill, tables, water and pit toilets.

Backpack camping: Six backpack camping sites are located along Widow's Creek. The trailhead leading to the sites is



located in the Backpacking Camping Registration parking lot. Distance to the sites ranges from 1.5 to 3 miles from the trailhead. All supplies must be packed to the camping area and minimum impact camping procedures should be followed. Backpack camping is on a first-come basis by permit only with a maximum of six people per site. Self register at the Backpack Camping Registration parking lot. Backpack camping is prohibited in all other areas of the park.

Trout Fishing

Designated Trout Streams: More than 20 miles of park streams are designated trout waters. Rainbow and brown trout dominate the lower parts of the streams while brook trout inhabit the higher, cooler stretches of water. Garden, Widow's and Big Sandy creeks are Wild Trout Waters where only single hook artificial lures may be used.

The East Prong of Roaring River is a stocked stream and is classified as delayed harvest. For approximately eight months of the year, no trout may be harvested from the river and only single hook artificial lures may be used.

For season dates and regulations for each type of trout water, contact the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC). A valid state fishing license and trout license are required for all streams and regulations of the WRC are enforced throughout the park.

Fish for Fun: Fish just for fun on Bullhead and Rich Mountain creeks. This section is strictly catch and release and is open for fishing year round from 8:30 a.m. until one hour before park closing. Barbless flies and nets are required. A special fishing permit is required for this area and may be purchased at the Bullhead Creek parking area. Permits are issued on a daily basis only.

Accessible Fishing Piers: Two accessible fishing piers are located along the East Prong of Roaring River. Accessible parking spaces are provided at each pier. Intended for use by individuals with mobility impairments, other individuals may use the piers when space is available.

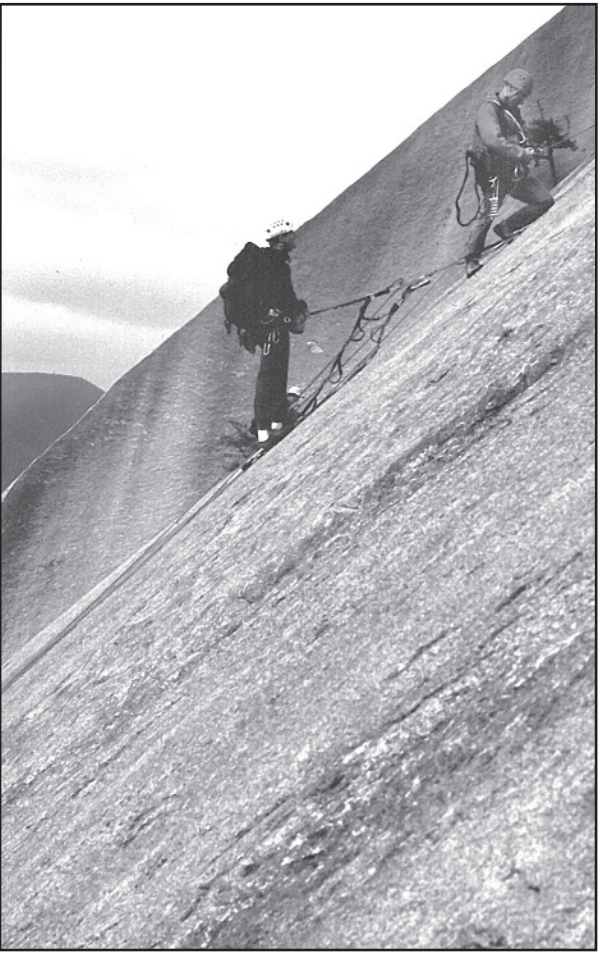
Flora & Fauna

Forests dominated by chestnut oak cover the slopes of the park's rock-faces, while scarlet and black oaks, red maple, hickory, white pine and dogwood populate the woodlands. In the understory are blueberry, rhododendron and mountain laurel. Small, slow-growing pines and cedar fringe the rock, while mats of lichens, mosses and small ferns grow on areas of open, exposed granite.

Find frogs and salamanders savoring the moist habitats bordering streams at Stone Mountain, while a variety of trout swim underwater. Beavers also enjoy the waters of the park and have created small ponds near the East Prong of Roaring River. Many species of birds inhabit the area, including scarlet tanager, whippoorwill, ruffed grouse, turkey and pileated woodpecker. Other animals found in the park include box turtles, gray and red foxes, bobcats, raccoons and white-tailed deer.

Rock Climbing

Climbing is permitted in designated areas on the cliffs of Stone Mountain. Because of the dangers of rock climbing and rappelling, climbing is not recommended for beginners unless they are accompanied by an experienced climber. Participants are responsible for their own personal safety, including securing proper training and equipment and adhering to safe practices. All climbers must register and possess a valid permit. A self-registration box is located at the climbing area. Contact the park office for additional climbing rules.



Rules & Regulations

Make your visit a safe and rewarding experience. The following rules and regulations are in effect throughout the park for the protection of our natural resources and our visitors. A complete listing of rules is available at the park office.

- ❑ The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.
- ❑ The removal of any plant, animal, rock or artifact is prohibited.
- ❑ Help maintain a clean environment by throwing trash in proper receptacles. State law requires aluminum cans to be placed in recycling containers.
- ❑ North Carolina state parks are wildlife preserves. Hunting and trapping are not permitted.
- ❑ Fishing is permitted only during park hours. Regulations of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission are enforced.
- ❑ Climbing is permitted in designated areas. All climbers must self register before beginning a climb.
- ❑ Hikers and climbers must be off the mountain at park closing time. Climbs should not begin three hours or less before the park closes.
- ❑ Fires are permitted only in designated areas. Collecting firewood is prohibited.
- ❑ Firearms and fireworks are not permitted within the park boundary.
- ❑ North Carolina motor vehicle and traffic laws apply in the park. Speed limit is 25 mph.
- ❑ Pets must be on a leash no longer than six feet.
- ❑ As a courtesy to other campers, observe the posted campground quiet hours.

For Your Safety

To prevent accidents, remember these safety tips.

- ❑ Stay on the designated trails and away from cliff faces and waterfalls. Steep drop-offs, unstable footing, bees' nests and poison ivy exist beyond the trail. In addition, fragile plant communities may be damaged when you leave the trail.
- ❑ Use extreme caution when hiking on wet rocks. Wear proper footwear.
- ❑ Venomous snakes, poison ivy and ticks may exist along the trail. Be alert.
- ❑ Be sure to plan your hike so that you avoid being caught by darkness and exit the park or return to your campsite before closing.
- ❑ When in high places, remember that others may be below. Do not throw or dislodge rocks.
- ❑ At the sight of an approaching electrical storm, return to your vehicle or the nearest park building immediately. Do not remain on rock outcrops, in open fields or in the forest under tall trees.
- ❑ Dress properly and carry the proper equipment. Should you plan a long hike or side trip, make your plans known to park staff.

Welcome!

Stone Mountain is not immediately visible upon entering the park that bears its name but this magnificent 600-foot granite dome is well worth the wait. Sunlight and shadows dance across a broad tapestry of stone. White-tailed deer emerge from the security of the forest to graze on meadow grasses at the mountain's base. The scenery, is just one attraction of the park.

Test your fly-fishing techniques in more than 20 miles of designated trout waters. Or, with more than 18 miles of trails, take a hike in the park. Designated as a National Natural Landmark in 1975, Stone Mountain is bounded on the north by the Blue Ridge Parkway and on the west by the Thurmond Chatham Game Lands. More than 14,100 acres of mountain beauty offer opportunities for outdoor activities of all kinds.



Information

To learn more about Stone Mountain State Park, contact:

Stone Mountain State Park
3042 Frank Parkway
Roaring Gap, NC 28668
336-957-8185
denr.dpr.stone.mountain@lists.ncmail.net
www.ncparks.gov

Discover other North Carolina state parks and recreation areas, contact:

N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation
Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources
1615 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699
Phone: (919) 733-4181

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Stone Mountain State Park



Numbered Items

- 1 Stone Mountain
- 2 Stone Mountain Falls
- 3 Lower Falls
- 4 Middle Falls
- 5 Widow's Creek Falls
- 6 Fish for Fun Registration
- 7 Garden Creek Baptist Church
- 8 Wolf Rock
- 9 Cedar Rock
- 10 Lower Trailhead Parking Lot
- 11 Hutchinson Homestead
- 12 Upper Trailhead-Stone Mountain Loop

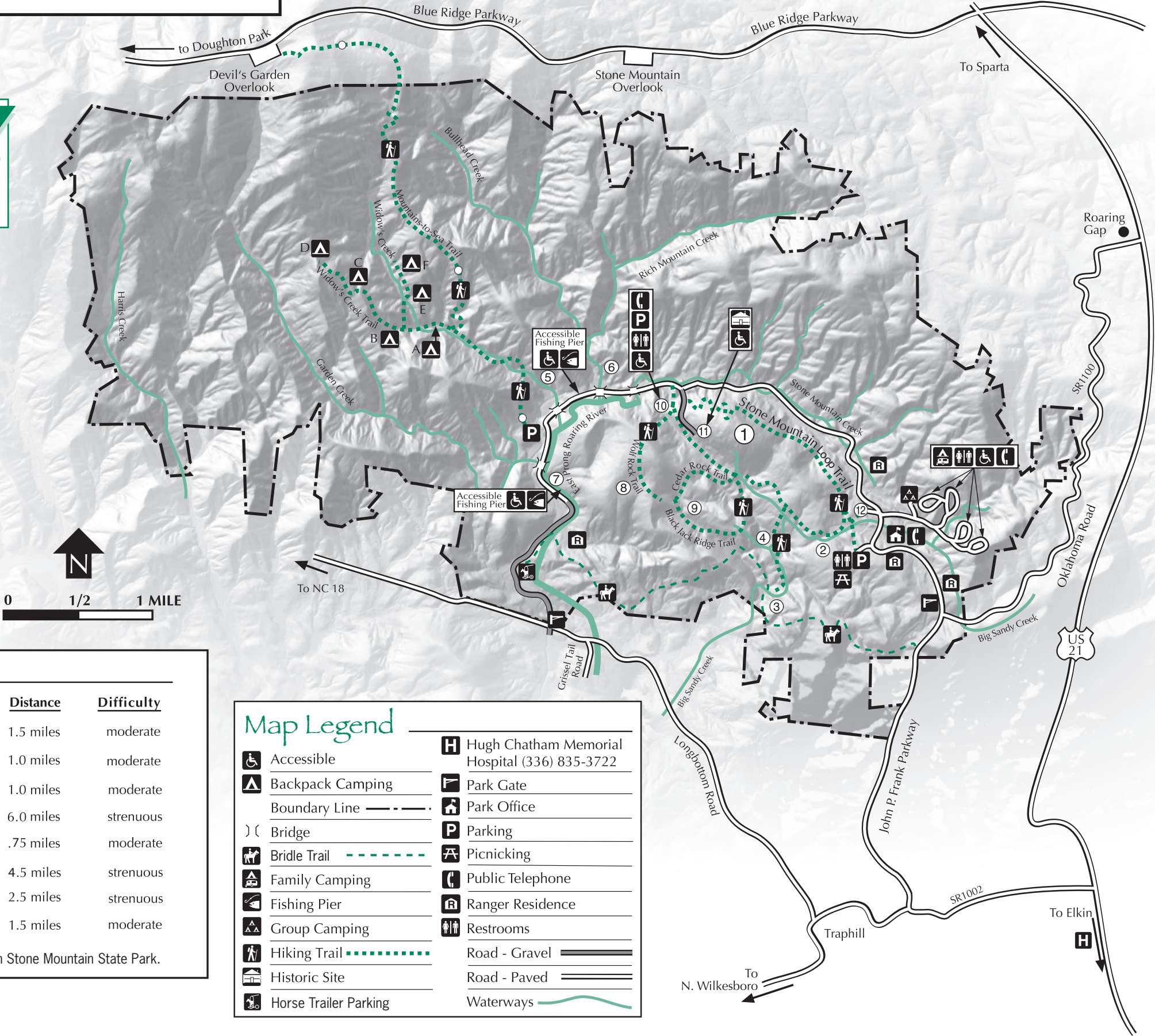
Hiking Trails

Trail Name	Blaze	Distance	Difficulty
Black Jack Ridge Trail	white □	1.5 miles	moderate
Cedar Rock Trail	red ○	1.0 miles	moderate
Middle Falls/Lower Falls Trail	blue ○	1.0 miles	moderate
*Mountains-to-Sea Trail	white ○	6.0 miles	strenuous
Connector Trail	blue ⬡	.75 miles	moderate
Stone Mountain Loop Trail	orange ○	4.5 miles	strenuous
Widow's Creek Trail	orange □	2.5 miles	strenuous
Wolf Rock Trail	red □	1.5 miles	moderate

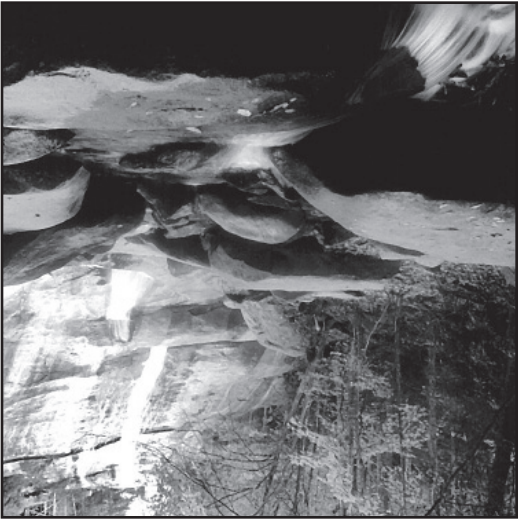
*Segment of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail within Stone Mountain State Park.

Map Legend

Accessible	Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital (336) 835-3722
Backpack Camping	Park Gate
Boundary Line	Park Office
Bridge	Parking
Bridle Trail	Picnicking
Family Camping	Public Telephone
Fishing Pier	Ranger Residence
Group Camping	Restrooms
Hiking Trail	Road - Gravel
Historic Site	Road - Paved
Horse Trailer Parking	Waterways



N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation
Department of Environment and Natural Resources



Stone Mountain State Park



Stone Mountain State Park is located in Wilkes and Alleghany counties, seven miles southwest of Roaring Gap. From the south, take U.S. 21 to Traphill Rd. (SR 1002) and follow it to the John P. Frank Parkway. From the west, take N.C. 18 north and turn right on Hwy. 268 east. Go three miles, turn left on Airport Rd. Go six miles to Traphill Rd, turn left. Follow Traphill Rd. about 12 miles to the John P. Frank Parkway, turn left.

Park Hours

November - February	8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
March, April, September & October	8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
May - August	8 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Closed Christmas Day	